ONE

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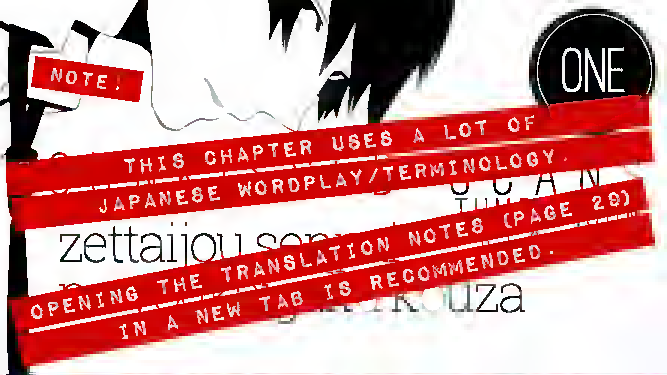
PRESENTS

zettaijou senpai no youkaigaku kouza


NOTE!
THIS CHAPTER USES A LOT OF JAPANESE WORDPLAY/TERMINOLOGY.
OPENING THE TRANSLATION NOTES (PAGE 29) IN A NEW TAB IS RECOMMENDED.
ONE
zettaijou

絶対城先輩の妖怪学講座

ZETTAIJOU SENPAI NO YOUKAIGAKU KOUZA

story by
Minemori
Horikazu

art by
Kotarou

translation/editing by
sunkiss
raws by
18touch

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妖怪学講座 絶対城先輩の

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絶対先輩の妖怪学講座

炬太郎

原作／峰守ひろかず
キャラクター原案／水口十

BETOBETO-SAN
A YOUKAI FOUND IN MYTHS FROM NARA PREFECTURE. AS YOU WALK DOWN THE STREET AT NIGHT, BETOBETO-SAN WILL FOLLOW, COPYING THE SOUND OF YOUR FOOTSTEPS.
EVEN IF YOU LOOK AROUND, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE BETOBETO-SAN. BUT IF YOU STAND TO THE SIDE AND SAY, "BETOBETO-SAN, PLEASE GO AHEAD," THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS WILL PASS YOU AND FADE INTO THE DISTANCE.
18 TOUCH 漢化組

I'VE BEEN WALKING AT THE SAME PACE EVER SINCE WE ENTERED THE SCHOOL.
YOU'RE WALKING TOO QUICKLY!
PL— PLEASE WAIT FOR ME!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WALKING TOO SLOWLY

You're not wrong, but...
Since I'm a woman, being in such a dark place...
It's scary enough to make me weak at the knees...
BESIDES, DIDN'T I ORIGINALLY TELL YOU TO KEEP UP WITH MY PACE?
MAYBE ALL YOUR MALE FRIENDS
WOULD FALL OVER THEMSELVES TRYING TO PROTECT YOU,
BUT...
JUST FOR TODAY, YOU'LL HAVE TO SURVIVE BY YOURSELF
18 TOUCH 漢化組

YOU CAME TO ME BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO GET RID OF "THAT"
"THAT" WON'T APPEAR IN BRIGHT PLACES, CORRECT?
SO WE'RE WALKING AROUND SCHOOL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO LURE IT OUT
UNFORTUNATELY, I COULDN'T GET MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROBLEM, SO WALKING LIKE THIS IS ALL WE CAN DO
SFX: PETAN (SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS)
8 TOUCH 漢化組

JUST NOW, THERE WAS—!
DON'T LOOK BACK.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T STOP WALKING, IT CAN'T CATCH YOU
SFX: PETAN PETAN
WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED?
THE THING YOU MENTIONED EARLIER IS SIMPLY RE-APPEARING
To be honest, I said that I've heard those footsteps before
But this is my first time hearing them so clearly!
HURRY UP
HURRY UP AND DO SOME—THING ALREADY!
THE FOOT—STEPS ...
ARE GOING TO CATCH UP ANY SECOND NOW!

Ahh!
Eh?!
Even if you're suddenly telling me this-
HURRY UP!
Eh?
Eh?!
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW
QUICKLY STAND AGAINST THE WALL,
AND SAY THE PHRASE I TAUGHT YOU!
IT ONLY WORKS WHEN THE FOOTSTEPS ARE ABOUT TO CATCH UP!
BETO...
18 TOUCH 漢化組

BETO—
BETO—
SAN,
PLEASE
GO
AHEAD!
SFX: PETAN
SFX: PETAN PETAN
SFX. PETAN

THE YOUKAI THAT WAS FOLLOWING YOU, "BETOBETO-SAN," IS COMPLETELY GONE.
Huh?
IT WORKED.
.....
IVE FULFILLED YOUR REQUEST
Whew
The... the thing you called "Betobeto" is a youkai, right?
So... there's nothing wrong with me?
I wasn't experiencing neurosis or... auditory hallucinations?
NOPE, SINCE I COULD HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS, TOO
AH, YEAH
BUT IT'S NOT JUST "BETOBETO." IT'S "BETOBETO-SAN"
HOWEVER...

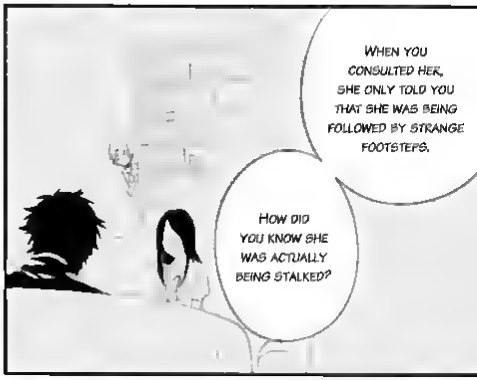
YOU'D BEST REMEMBER THIS.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ENCOUNTER YOUKAI IN THE FUTURE
YOU SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOUR CONSCIENCE
I've been wondering
Oh I just remembered
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR PRIVATE LIFE, THOUGH.
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN PLEASE STOP LECTURING ME!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HAVING A LOT OF MALE FRIENDS,
BUT YOU HAVE TOO MANY CONVOLUTED RELATIONSHIPS
FROM PADDLING MULTIPLE BOATS AT THE SAME TIME,
AND STUFF LIKE THAT
!!
TOUCH 漢化組

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH
How do I say this... your name, well,
It's quite complicated, if I remember correctly.
I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE.
MY NAME IS ZETTAIJOU ARAYA.

You set up loudspeakers in a dark building, force a weak-hearted girl to walk through said building,
Then use the loudspeakers to play creepy footsteps.
You accuse her of having multiple lovers,
And then you preach to her about promiscuity!
How evil can you get?
18 TOUCH 漢化組
My name is Yunoyama Ayane!
Also...
Stop calling me Yurei!
A gentleman uses his mouth, not his fist
Hey, you're slowing down you should work faster Yurei
If you think I'm slow, then you should help me!
Tsuruta did all this time is hard!

He called me out here, yet he's still treating me so rudely...
But...
But the "aya" from your given name can also be pronounced "rei" correct? So if I add the "yu" from your surname it makes "Yurei"
Even though that's true, it's-!
It can't be helped
18 TOUCH 漢化組
You were just pretending it was "Betobeto-san."
The truth is, the footsteps weren't caused by "Mr. Sticky" or "Mr. Footsteps."
If it was caused by a stalker, you could've just said so
Oh, that reminds me. The footsteps that lady kept hearing
Were really those of a stalker, weren't they?

I'll hide the fact that you were stalking her
It's me and if you were found out right?
YOU EVEN INTERCEPTED THE STALKER AND TOLD HIM TO STOP FOLLOWING HER..
WHERE DOES ALL YOUR INFORMATION COME FROM...


WHEN YOU CONSULTED HER, SHE ONLY TOLD YOU THAT SHE WAS BEING FOLLOWED BY STRANGE FOOTSTEPS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS ACTUALLY BEING STALKED?

I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN MY SOURCES TO YOU

YOUKAI STORIES WERE MADE TO EXPLAIN THE UNEXPLAINABLE, TO GIVE PEOPLE PEACE OF MIND WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SOMETHING THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND
IS IT SO WRONG TO RELY ON THE WISDOM OF OUR ANCESTORS?
BESIDES..
BESIDES?
GOOD AND EVIL ARE RELATIVE TERMS
BUT WASN'T BLAMING THE FOOTSTEPS ON A YOUKAI A BIT EXCESSIVE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU COLLECTED A FEE FROM THE STALKER IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SILENCE.

I'M A CONSPIRATOR IN AN EXTORTION SCHEME...
YOU MADE UP A YOUKAI WITH A WEIRD NAME JUST TO GET MONEY
YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH MONEY
BETO-BETO-SAN DOESN'T HAVE A WEIRD NAME
AND IT'S A DOCUMENTED YOUKAI WITH A VENERABLE HISTORY, NOT SOMETHING I JUST MADE UP
IF ACTS OF DECEPTION ARE SAID TO BE THE DOING OF FABRICATED YOUKAI THE DECEPTION WILL INEVITABLY BE EXPOSED
IF ACTS OF DECEPTION ARE SAID TO BE THE DOING OF DOCUMENTED YOUKAI EVEN IF THE MATTER IS INVESTIGATED FURTHER THE CLIENT WILL STILL APPROVE THE YOUKAI AS
A SATISFACTORY PERPETRATOR
A SATISFACTORY PERPETRATOR? YOU SERIOUSLY HAVE THE GALL TO SAY SUCH A THING.
A DOCUMENTED YOUKAI WITH A VENERABLE HISTORY, HUH—
18TOUCH

OF COURSE IT DOESN'T EXIST

WHAT?!
JUST THINK ABOUT IT
IT'S THE DISEMBODIED SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS THAT ONLY REACTS TO A CERTAIN PHRASE, AND REACTS TO SAID PHRASE BY MOVING PAST THE SPEAKER
EVEN PSEUDOSCIENCE HAS ITS LIMITS

IF I'D HAVE TO SAY THEN BETOBETO-SAN IS A KAKAI
KAKAI?
IT'S ONE OF FOUR TYPES OF YOUKAI, AS CATEGORIZED BY THE FATHER OF YOUKAI STUDIES

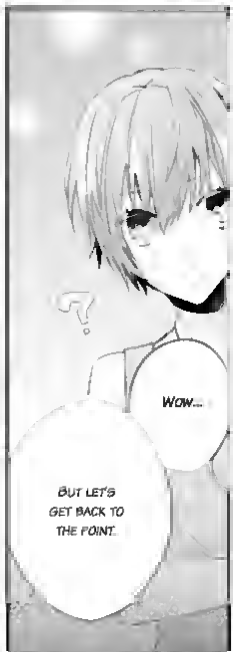
SENPAI...
THAT...
"BETOBETO-SAN." DOES IT REALLY EXIST?

"KAKAI" IS THE CATEGORY ASSIGNED TO YOUKAI CREATED BASED ON THE EXISTENCE OF PLANTS, ANIMALS AND OTHER NATURAL PHENOMENA
?
YOKAI THAT ARE FABRICATED BY HUMANS ARE CATEGORIZED AS "MISEKAI"
ADDI-TIONALLY THE YOUKAI THAT ARE MISTAKENLY BELIEVED TO BE THE CAUSE OF STRANGE PHENOMENA ARE CATEGORIZED AS "GOKAI"
DURING THE MEIJI PERIOD, INOUE ENRYOU, A PHILOSOPHER AND YOUKAI SCHOLAR, CLASSIFIED YOUKAI INTO FOUR CATEGORIES
18 TOUCH 漢化組
WHA-?
!?
IT'S THE JAPANESE GIANT SALAMANDER
THEN BETOBETO-SAN'S TRUE IDENTITY IS?
ACCOR-DING TO CONVEN-TIONAL REASONING
WHAT'S SIMPLE IS YOUR MIND
THERE'S A REAL REASON BEHIND IT
IT'S SIMPLE TO SEE.
OH, IT'S BECAUSE SALAMANDERS ARE SO STICKY.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS ARE CREATURES COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH MYTHOLOGY
THIS ASSOCIATION IS ESPECIALLY POPULAR IN NARA PREFECTURE
THE LEGEND OF BETOBETO-SAN IS ALSO DUE TO THIS ASSOCIATION.

SAY, YUREI, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF "IMINA"?
THE BEINGS WE CALL GODS CANNOT BE ADDRESSED WITH SOMETHING AS COMMON AS AN EVERYDAY NAME
THUS, WE CALL THEM BY THEIR IMINA- FOR TENGU IT'S "YAMANOMONO" AND FOR KAPPA IT'S "KAWANOJI."
AND SO THE JAPANESE GIANT SALAMANDER'S IMINA CAME TO BE HANZAKI

IT'S WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR "HALF" AND "CRACK"
THERE ARE VARIOUS THEORIES AS TO THE ORIGIN OF THIS IMINA.
SOME SAY IT CAME TO BE BECAUSE PEOPLE ONCE BELIEVED THE JAPANESE GIANT SALAMANDER COULD SURVIVE BEING TORN IN HALF
THAT'S ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS THEORIES


WOW...
BUT LET'S GET BACK TO THE POINT.

ALSO, THE "BETOBETO" FROM "BETOBETO-SAN" MEANS STICKY.
ONCE HE GETS STARTED ABOUT YOUKAI, HE NEVER SHUTS UP...
AND CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE JAPANESE GIANT SALAMANDER'S CHARACTERISTIC MUCUS

IN THAT CASE, WHERE DOES THE "-SAN" IN BETOBETO-SAN COME FROM, YURE?
WHA-WHAT?
I'LL LET YOU KNOW RIGHT NOW THE "-SAN" IN BETOBETO-SAN IS DIFFERENT FROM THE "-SAN" IN TANAKA-SAN OR ANY OTHER NAME LIKE THAT
EH?
ううーん
AH!
BASICALLY, "BETOBETO-SAN" IS MEANT TO MEAN "STICKY SALAMANDER"
ぽ
あ
OH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
COULD IT BE THE -SAN FROM "OOSANSHOUUO," THE PRONUNCIATION OF "JAPANESE GIANT SALAMANDER"?
NOT BAD, YOU GUESSED IT
THEREFORE...
TOUCH

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE "PLEASE GO AHEAD" IN "BETOBETO-SAN, PLEASE GO AHEAD" ISN'T TALKING ABOUT GOING IN FRONT OF SOMEONE
"AHEAD" HAS THE SAME PRONUNCIATION AS THE CHARACTER FOR "CRACK" IN HANZAKI
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S SAYING THAT THE SALAMANDER SHOULD RETURN HOME TO WHERE THE OTHER SALAMANDERS ARE
18 TOUCH

...I SEE!
SENPAI, DID YOU THINK OF ALL THIS BEFORE?
SO, DO YOU THINK YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
YEAH! I GET IT, I GET IT!
IT'D BE SO MUCH SIMPLER IF PEOPLE HAD JUST USED THE FULL NAME.
OETOBETO-SAN ISN'T A "-SAN" AT ALL, BUT AN OOSANSHOUJO! OMITTING A FEW WORDS COMPLETELY CHANGED THE MEANING!
OOPS, HERE COMES TROU-BLE.
A SECURITY GUARD?!
!
WE SHOULD PROBABLY RUN
SENPAI, WAIT UP!

At least wait to escape with me!
You didn't worry about me at all!
I don't have to worry about you to that level, do I?
Why'd you run away by yourself?
And so quickly!
I had to hide in a room until the security guard left.
Just go! I could clean up the rest of the equipment!
I see.
And yet he was the one who ran off, leaving me behind.
And wasn't it all because of Zettaijou-senpai rambling endlessly about youkai?
In the end, the clean-up was delayed..
This goddamn bastard...
You only have yourself to blame
I was simply answering your question.
Weren't you the one who wanted to talk about Betobeto-san?

WHAT DID I DO TO GET INVOLVED WITH SUCH A CRIMINAL...
ISN'T THIS THE PATH YOU CHOSE YOURSELF?
YOU'RE RIGHT, IT IS.
LIKE I'D EVER SAY THAT!
I WON'T BE USED SO EASILY BY THE LIKES OF YOU!
BUT...

To be Continued...

PREVIEW

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YUNOYAME?!

NEXT TIME...
THE STORY BEHIND ZETTAIJOU AND YUNOYAME'S FIRST MEETING IS REVEALED!

TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 1

⚠ **THIS CHAPTER IS HEAVILY BASED IN JAPANESE WORDPLAY.** ⚠
TO BEST UNDERSTAND AND ENJOY THIS CHAPTER,
I RECOMMEND OPENING THESE TRANSLATION NOTES IN A NEW TAB/WINDOW, AND REFERRING TO THEM AS YOU READ.

Pg. 2: Betobeto-san
べとべと-さん can be interpreted to mean "Mr. Sticky" or "Mr. Footsteps."

Pg. 10: Paddling multiple boats
It's a euphemism for cheating. Usually the saying is "Paddling TWO boats," so saying multiple boats is emphasizing that she is cheating on numerous people.

Pg. 11: I will always be there.
The original line is "俺 は いつ でも そこ に いる" which is pronounced "Ore wa itsu demo soko ni iru." I'm guessing that in Japanese, it sounds dramatic, which is why the line garners a two-page spread, and also why the short-haired girl reacts so incredulously.

Pg. 12 Yurei
Yurei is the Japanese term for a ghost/spirit.

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TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 1

Pg. 13: Yurei
Yunoyama Ayane is composed like so: 湯ノ山礼音.
(湯 is "yu," ノ is "no," 山 is "yama." 礼 is "aya" 音 is "ne.")
However, 礼 is only pronounced "aya" when coupled with certain characters. Usually, it is pronounced "rei." Zettaijou takes this character and puts it together with 湯 to form 湯礼, or "yurei."

"The truth is, the footsteps weren't caused by 'Mr. Sticky' or 'Mr. Footsteps.'"
If you recall the T/N for page 2, Betobeto-san can be interpreted to mean either "Mr. Sticky" or "Mr. Footsteps." Yurei is using both to say that no matter what it is: what meaning is takes, Betobeto-san has nothing to do with the footsteps.

Pg. 16-17: Inoue Enryou
井上円了, was a Buddhist philosopher and educator who studied youkai from a standpoint of overcoming superstition. His fascination with youkai earned him the moniker of "Obake Hakase," lit. Ghost Doctor. He founded a philosophy academy, which is now the present-day Toyo University. At the academy, he taught numerous fields of philosophy,

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TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 1

Pg. 16-17: Inoue Enryou (cont.)
including an original science he dubbed "妖怪学," which is pronounced "youkaigaku," and lit. means Mystery/Monster Studies (and just happens to be Zettaijou's field of study as well!)

The types of youkai
Kakai, 仮怪, lit. Fictitious/hypothetical monster
Gokai, 誤怪, lit. Mistake monster
Nisekai, 偽怪 lit. Counterfeit/ phony monster
(Q: Wait up, didn't Zettaijou say there were four types of youkai? What's the fourth type?
A: No idea! The raws only mention the above three types of youkai.)

Pg. 18: Imina
Imina (諱, lit. Real name) was a naming concept used back in ancient Japan. After a person passed away, their personal name was called their imina and was no longer used. Emperors' personal names were designated as imina even while they were alive. A Western equivalent to imina would be the concept of 'true names.' If you want to learn more, you can use a translation service to read this wikipedia article on imina: https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/諱

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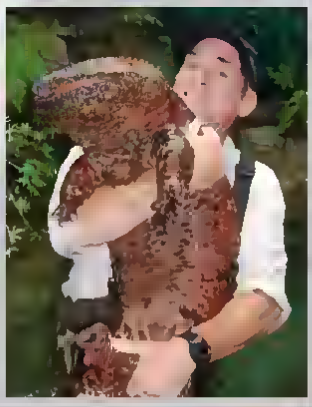
TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 1

Pg. 18 Tengu, kappa, and their imina
(T/N: Tengu (天狗, lit. Heaven dog) is a type of humanoid yokai with, despite it's name, a winged, bird-like appearance. Some depictions of tengu have swapped out their beaks for long noses. Kappa (河童, lit. River child) is type of water-dwelling yokai. It is commonly depicted as a beaked humanoid with a turtle shell and a 'plate' on its head.)
Yamanomono literally means mountain object and kawanoji literally means river word. Unfortunately, I don't know if these names have further meanings.

Japanese Giant Salamander
大山椒魚, pronounced "oosanshoouo" and lit. means "big mountain pepper fish." When threatened, it exudes a milky fluid that smells similar to Japanese peppers, thus giving it it's name.



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TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 1

Pg. 18: "It's written with the characters for "half" and "crack" to mean half."
The characters are 半 and 裂, respectively.

"Betobeto... means sticky"
Once again, the two possible meanings of "betobeto" come into play. Previously, it could have been thought that the youkai Betobeto-san was named after the footstep sounds it is purported to make. However, Zettaijou is now saying that the "betobeto" is actually derived from the sticky mucus of the JGS.

Pg. 19: "the "-san" in Betobeto-san is different from the "-san" in Tanaka-san or any other name like that"
Zettaijou is saying that the -san in Betobeto-san is not an honorific like those commonly associated with people's names.
It's like saying the "mister" in "plant mister" is different from the "mister" in "Mister Smith."

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TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 1

Pg. 20: ""Ahead" has the same pronunciation as the character for "crack" in Hanzaki."
The original Japanese for "Betobeto-san, please go ahead" is べとべとさん先へお越し, or "betobeto-san saki e okoshi." Zettaijou is pointing out that the "saki" in the above phrase has the same pronunciation as the "裂(zaki)" character in "Hanzaki." As you can probably tell, this kind of wordplay is impossible to convey in English without extensive alteration of the meaning. I'm choosing to preserve and explain the original meaning.

"the salamander should return home to where the other salamanders are."
"へお越し (e okoshi)" basically means "come to." So "先へお越し (saki e okoshi)" means "come (to) ahead," the "to" being implied. If you replace the "ahead (saki)" with "salamander (hanzaki)," it roughly means "come to salamander." If you add the revised meaning of "Betobeto-san," you get something literally like "Salamander, come to salamander." Basically, it's telling the salamander to go to it's own kind.
Confusing? I know.

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